D-1456

S.B. D.1456

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POL
C. & S. B. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D.1456.
ate 23 - 7 - 30.

July 22, 30.

Dear Mr. Cunningham,

Synthetic Opium.

In reply to your letter of July 17 on the above subject, I have to inform you that the so called synthetic opium was in reality a composition of boiled pig skin and sesamum seed cake and has no narcotic effect. It is frequently used for mixing with inferior grades of opium for purposes of fraud in opium transactions, and is in some instances actually smoked by very poor addicts of the habit.

Opium, dross and ashes are also mixed with this substance for fraudulent purposes to give it the smell of opium whilst the colour is sometimes obtained by mixture with date juice.

Without the opium or opium residue the substance is manufactured locally in large quantities for mixing with paint and varnish.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) F. W. Gerrard

Edwin S. Cunningham Esq.,
U.S.A. Consul-General,
Shanghai.

601.

Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

Shanghai, ... 193.....

To .....

Li-an-to has no narcotic effect. The 145 catties synthetic opium referred to as being destroyed by the Customs comprised the following spurious opium:

Yunnan raw	55
Spurious Yunnan	55
" Szechuen	33½
Catties.	143½

Kiu was handed over by the Shanghai District Court.

A.H.S. Clay Capt. B.

Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

Shanghai, July 22 193 0.

To D.C. (C.I.S. Ro).

Herewith St. Perkins' report on attached enquiry. There is no such thing as synthetic opium. Li-an-to, a composition of boiled pigs' rind & sesamum cake is frequently used with inferior grades of opium for fraudulent purposes. Such "opium" is known as spurious or imitation opium.

File No. S. B. D. 1456.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Traffic Branch Station.

REPORT

Date July 22, 1930.

Subject (in full) Re Opium burned by the Maritime Customs.

Made by Sub-Insp. C.T. Perkins. Forwarded by

Sir,

With reference to the attached letter, I beg to report that I have made inquiries and find that the opium in question which was burned by the Customs on April 4th was not synthetic opium but what is known as "Liao Ts" (子料) or imitation opium. It is usually composed of boiled pigs rind, sesamum seed cake & when making imitation Indian Opium sometimes dates are added to give the dark rich colour.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. T. Perkins.
Sub-Inspector.

Officer i/c Traffic Branch.

In reply refer to
800 JEJ/CEG

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. & S. D. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 1456.
Date 21-7-30.

American Consulate General,
Shanghai, China, July 17, 1930.

Subject: Synthetic Opium Burned by the Maritime Customs.

Dear Major Gerrard:

Sometime during April of this year it was reported in the press of Shanghai that the Customs on April 4th destroyed by burning a quantity of opium and other narcotics including 145 catties of synthetic opium. This report has come to the attention of the Department of State which desires such information as may be available concerning synthetic opium, particularly the composition of this substance and the method, place and extent of its manufacture.

Any information which you can give me in this connection for transmission to the Department of State will be greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

Edwin S. Cunningham

Edwin S. Cunningham.

DC(CIS)
for draft answer please
MC
19/7

Major F. W. Gerrard, C.I.E.,
Commissioner of Police,
18 Hankow Road,
Shanghai.